

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended and claims 2 and 3 canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found at least in original claims 2 and 3. Claim 4 is amended for dependency. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Merlino and Lugo at the personal interview held April 30, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter. However, as discussed below, all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Office Action. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim 2 is objected to for informalities. The objection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 2. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection of canceled claims 2 and 3 is moot and the rejection of claims 1 and 4-14 is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, independent claim 1 is enabled by at least page 6, line 37 - page 7, line 2 of Applicant's specification. Therefore, for at least these reasons, claim 1 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 satisfies the enablement requirement. Claims 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph only because of

their dependency on independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 4-14 also satisfy the enablement requirement. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection of canceled claims 2 and 3 is moot. Further, as agreed during the personal interview, independent claim 1 is amended responsive to the rejection. Claims 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph only because of their dependency on independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 1 and 4-14 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Henrichs (EP 0 431 769)<sup>1</sup>; and Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Henrichs in view of Sessler (U.S. Patent No. 2,783,072). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original claims 2 and 3. Further, claims 5-14 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

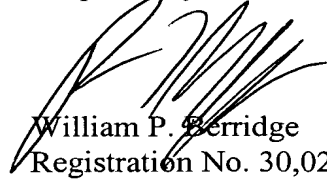
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action rejects only claims 1 and 5-12 because no support has been provided for a rejection to claims 2-4, and the Office Action indicates on page 6 that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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